

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06448 131153Z  
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 L-03 SCA-01  
/024 W

-----034618 131243Z /53

R 130943Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1517

UNCLAS ATHENS 6448

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN (CERTIFICATE OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP FOR U.S VESSELS)  
SUBJ: CGEN: (REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION REGARDING CERTIFICATE  
OF U.S. OWNERSHIP)

REFS: A. 7 FAM 571.5  
B. ATHENS 292 (13 JAN 75)  
C. STATE 8615 (14 JAN 75)

1. FURTHER CLARIFICATION REQUESTED CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS  
FOR ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP TO OWNERS  
OF AMERICAN UNDOCUMENTED VESSELS FOR PRIVATE USE. INFORMATION  
SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED REGARDING REQUIREMENTS FOR  
OBTAINING CERTIFICATES OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP FOR A) AMERICAN  
MADE VESSELS OWNED AND USED BY AMERICANS OVERSEAS AND  
B) FOREIGN MADE VESSELS OWNED AND USED BY AMERICANS OVERSEAS.  
ALSO, REQUESTED IS NAME, ADDRESS AND BUREAU OF AGENCY  
RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING CERTIFICATES OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP WITHIN U.S

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RE-EVALUATION OF DDEPARTMENT'S  
PRECEDURE SET FORTH IN REFERENCE A AND FURTHER CLARIFIED  
IN REFERENCE C, THAT VENDOR OR BUILDER OF VESSEL MUST  
PERSONALLY ACKNOWLEDGE BILL OF SALE BEFORE CONSULAR OFFICER IN ORDER  
FOR VESSEL TO RECEIVE CERTIFICATE OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP.

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3. EMBASSY HAS BEEN COMPELLED TO DENY AMERICAN OWNERSHIP  
CERTIFICATES IN THREE RECENT CASES TO OTHERWISE QUALIFIED  
VESSELS BECAUSE OF REFERENCE C GUIDELINE.  
A. IN FIRST CASE, USED VESSEL WAS SOLD TO AMERICAN CITIZEN  
BY CANADIAN CITIZEN WHO IS NOW DECEASED, SINCE LAST VENDOR  
CANNOT ACKNOWLEDGE SALE BEFORE CONSULAR OFFICER, IT APPEARS  
THAT VESSEL CANNOT RECEIVE CERTIFICATE OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP

UNDER PRESENT OWNERSHIP. IF VESSEL WERE RESOLD TO ANOTHER AMERICAN AND SALE WERE ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE CONSULAR OFFICER, ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS BEING IN ORDER, VESSEL COULD PRESUMABLY RECEIVE CERTIFICATE OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP.

B. IN SECOND CASE, NEW VESSEL WAS PURCHASED IN SAN FRANCISCO, AND IMMEDIATELY SHIPPED TO GREECE FROM BOATYARD. PURCHASER QUERIED COAST GUARD CONCERNING OBTAINING CERTIFICATE OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP AND ALLEGEDLY WAS TOLD TO OBTAIN ONE AT CONSULATE IN ATHENS. SINCE VENDOR IS UNABLE TO APPEAR BEFORE CONSULAR OFFICER TO ACKNOWLEDGE SALE IN CALIFORNIA, CERTIFICATE HAS NOT BEEN ISSUED.

C. IN LAST CASE, AMERICAN CITIZEN RESIDING IN GREECE, COMMISSIONED CONSTRUCTION OF VESSEL IN GREEK BOATYARD FOUR HUNDRED MILES FROM EMBASSY. IN THIS CASE, PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF VENDOR BEFORE CONSULAR OFFICER INVOLVES EXPENSE OF TIME AND MONEY. PURCHASER IS WAITING RESPONSE TO THIS TELEGRAM TO DETERMINE NECESSITY OF FINANCING TRIP BY VENDOR TO CONSULATE.

4. OWNERSHIP DOCUMENTATION GIVES CLEAR TITLE TO CURRENT OWNERS IN ALL THREE CASES. IN CASE A, BILL OF SALE WAS SIGNED BEFORE CANADIAN NOTARY AND VENDOR AGREED TO DEFEND PURCHASER AGAINST CLAIMS AND INTERESTS OF ALL PREVIOUS OWNERS. IN CASE B, OWNER SUPPLIED ORIGINAL BILL OF SALE AND RELATED OWNERSHIP DOCUMENTS, IN CASE C, BILL OF SALE NOTARIZED BEFORE COMPETANT GREEK NOTARY WAS FURNISHED IN ADDITION TO CARPENTER'S CERTIFICATE. ALL VESSELS ARE PLEASURE UNCLASSIFIED

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CRAFT FOR PRIVATE USE.

5. DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE REQUESTED FOR HANDLING CASES DESCRIBED ABOVE. IN AFOREMENTIONED CASES, OWNERS WERE INFORMED DENIALS WERE TENTATIVE, PENDING RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRY TO DEPARTMENT. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT REFERENCE C REQUIREMENT BE WAIVED IN CASE OF NEW VESSELS, OTHERWISE QUALIFIED WITH CLEAR OWNERSHIP DOCUMENTS. IT IS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IN OTHER CASES, AND AT DISCRETION OF THE CONSUL, NOTARIZATION PROCEEDURE OF 7FAM 834.2 BE ACCEPTED.  
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## Message Attributes

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